

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 OMB-01 EB-03 IGA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01

/045 W

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R 031414Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6050

S E C R E T AMMAN 8443

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, PINT, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH THE KING-- USAID AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. STATE 258224

B. STATE 258690

C. AMMAN 7397

1. I SAW KING MORNING NOVEMBER 3 AND PROVIDED HIM WITH
INFORMATION ON REQUEST TO CONGRESS ON ASSISTANCE FOR JORDAN
FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

2. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THE INCREASE IN FOREIGN MILITARY
SALES CREDIT AND RELAYED TO HIM MY DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER
ON SEEKING SAUDI BACKING. KING WAS PLEASED AND ASKED ME
TO PASS ON HIS THANKS. HE HOPES WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE
PASSAGE OF THE FULL AMOUNT IN THE CONGRESS BUT I MADE SURE
HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CONGRESS WAS NOT PREDICTABLE
ON THESE POINTS, AND WHILE WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO
SO CUTS THIS YEAR AS IN THE PAST YEARS COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.
I ALSO USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT OUR
INCREASING SHIFT FROM GRANT TO CREDIT ASSISTANCE AND THE
FACT THAT THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WE HAD WORKED
OUT FOR JORDAN MEANS THAT JORDAN ENJOYS THE CREDIT AS GRANT AID

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THROUGH SAUDI OR OTHER BACKING.

3. WE DISCUSSED ALSO SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE AND SOME OF THE GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUTTING AN INCREASED SHARE OF THIS INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF PROVIDING JORDAN WITH THE CAPACITY EVENTUALLY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS OWN BUDGET AND ECONOMIC NEEDS.

4. THE CONVERSATION LED NATURALLY INTO THE INFLUX OF US AND FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN LOOKING FOR NEW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS SITES AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES IN BEIRUT. HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS TO HAVE APPROVED SOME LEGAL CHANGES ENHANCING JORDAN AS A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS R ESTABLISH A REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. (WE HAVE AWAITED CHANGES IN LOCAL LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD FURTHER LIBERALIZE TAX BENEFITS AND DUTY FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGES FOR FOREIGN FIRMS) HE ALSO SAID THAT JORDAN WOULD GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES (TELEX AND TELEPHONE) TO NEW BUSINESSES HERE. THEY HAD DISCOVERED SOME OF THEIR LINED UNDERUTILIZED AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO SHIFT THESE FROM JORDANIANS TO FOREIGNERS.

5. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE ACHIEVEMENT OF A FOUR YEAR ENGLISH LANGUAGE HIGH SCHOOL. THE KING SAID HE FULLY SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL EVEN TO THE PROVIDING OF LAND AND OTHER FACILITIES. HE DID ASK HOWEVER THAT THE EMBASSY LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE POTENTIAL OPERATORS OF THE FUTURE SCHOOL AND DETERMINE WHETHER ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WE KNEW ABOUT THEIR BACKGROUNDS THEY WERE SUITABLE AND WOULD MERIT GOJ SUPPORT. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD DO SO BEFORE PROCEEDING FUTHER (AMMAN 8424) AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON THIS POINT.
PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESSMEN, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN08443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750382-0294
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751182/aaaacvht.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 258224
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH THE KING-- USAID AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: MASS, EAID, PINT, JO, US, (HUSSEIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006